



# **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

## **For the November 4, 2025 Bond Proposal**

**Introduction:** Our community will have the opportunity to vote on a bond proposal on the November 4, 2025 election ballot. If approved, it will provide **\$35,000,000** for building & site improvements to address identified and ongoing capital projects based on facility assessments and community input. If approved by voters, the 2026 bond millage is expected to have a projected **ZERO MILL NET TAX RATE INCREASE** from the current (2025) tax year.

### **1. What is a bond proposal and how can bond funds be spent?**

A bond proposal is how a public school district asks its community whether to authorize borrowing money to pay for capital expenditures. Voter-approved bond funds can be spent on additions, remodeling, site improvements, athletic facilities, playgrounds, furnishings, equipment, and other capital needs. Funds raised through the sale of bonds cannot be used for operational expenses such as employee salaries and benefits, school supplies, and textbooks. Bond funds must be kept separate from operating funds and must be audited by an independent auditing firm.

### **2. What are the key projects in this bond proposal?**

This bond proposal would address the highest priority projects as determined by the district and community input with a focus on **Safe, Warm, and Dry.**

#### **Bentley Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center**

- Site work for an addition that houses two new classrooms with restrooms
- Mill and overlay the existing parking lot
- Expand the parking lot
- Abatement
- Classroom furniture and equipment

#### **Emerson Elementary School**

- Replace boiler
- Replace EIFS with composite panel on north side of building
- Replace roof – center section
- Pave parking lot
- Replace sidewalks near bus stop on Dewey Street
- Abatement
- Classroom furniture and equipment

#### **Bryant Elementary School**

- Replace boiler
- Remodel restrooms to meet ADA compliance – new fixtures and finishes
- Replace the roof over the gym and the wood exterior fascia
- Replace ceilings throughout the school
- Build a secure entrance
- Install exterior fencing
- Abatement
- Classroom furniture and equipment



**Central Elementary School**

- Remodel restrooms to meet ADA compliance – new fixtures and finishes
- Replace the entire roof and the wood exterior fascia (Note: The 2019 addition will NOT receive a new roof.)
- Replace windows
- Replace sidewalks on Lee Street (Note: Some work will be completed in 2027 and some in 2028.)
- Build a secure entrance
- Abatement
- Classroom furniture and equipment

**Owosso 6th-12th Grade Campus & Athletics**

- Replace sawtooth roofing over the cafeteria and media center
- Replace pool infrastructure and mechanical systems (Note: Some work will be completed in 2028 and some in 2029.)
- Remove skylights and infill roof and ceiling
- Resurface the “freshman” parking lot on the West side of the campus
- Abatement

**Washington Campus/Lincoln Alternative High School**

- Remodel restrooms to meet ADA compliance – new fixtures and finishes
- Add doors to create a secure entrance
- Replace water lines
- Replace fuse panels
- Abatement
- Classroom furniture and equipment

**Jerome Street Transportation Facility**

- Demolish buildings
- Create new parking lot for district use
- Abatement

**Cedar Street Warehouse**

- Demolish existing building
- Abatement

**New construction of a Transportation/Maintenance Center on the north side of the 6th-12th Grade Campus (property currently owned by the District) inclusive of:**

- Bus canopy for 12 busses
- Sitework
- Loose furnishings and equipment
- Technology

**3. Why a bond proposal now?**

The 2025 bond proposal is planned to address the currently identified issues over the next three years. There are core infrastructure system projects, such as roofs, boilers, plumbing, electrical and windows, that have exceeded their expected lifecycles – replacing these systems would extend the useful life of our school buildings and sites.

# Net ZERO mill increase projected from the current tax levy

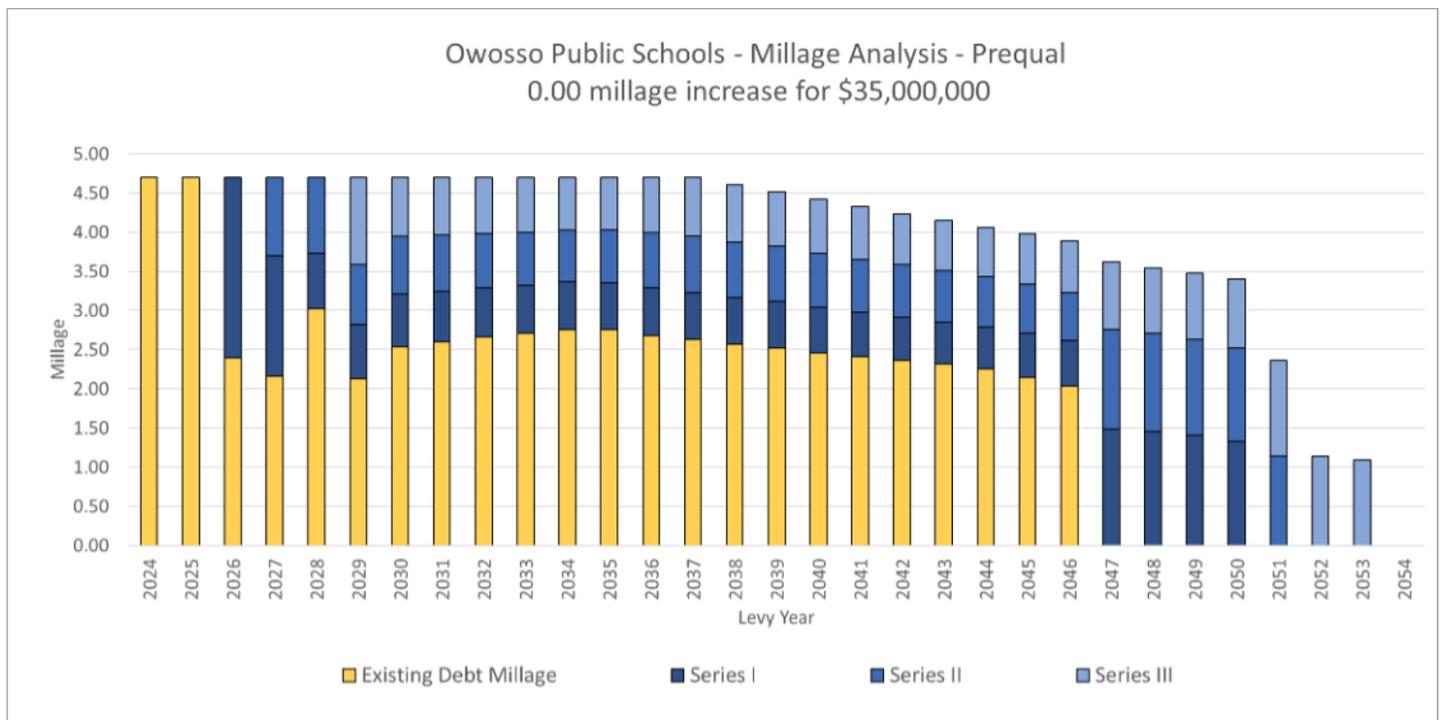


## 4. How would the bond proposal impact my property taxes?

Owosso Public Schools currently levies 4.7 mills for the debt tax rate. If the 2025 bond proposal is approved by voters, the debt tax rate is expected to remain the same at 4.7 mills, resulting in a projected **ZERO TAX RATE INCREASE** from the current tax year.

## 5. If the November 4, 2025 bond proposal passes, how will it impact the projected debt levy in the future?

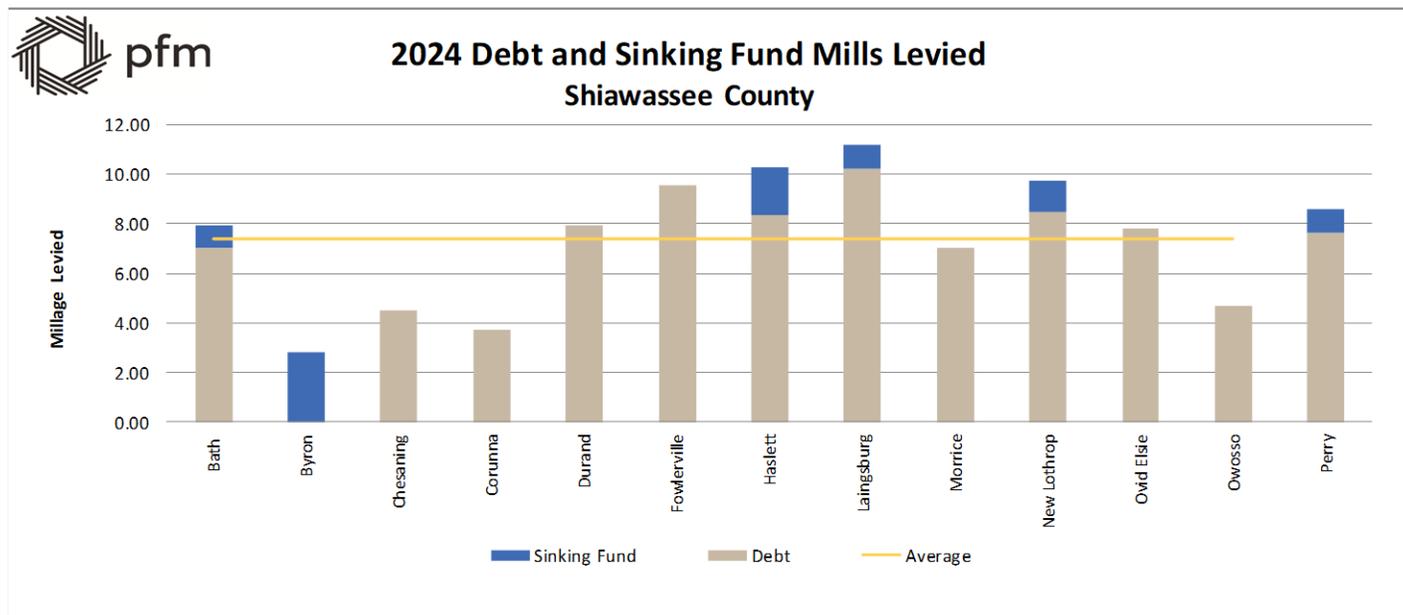
Below is a graph depicting both the district’s current debt millage as well as the projected debt millage if the November 2025 bond proposal is approved by the voters.



Assumptions: Taxable value growth rates of 3% for 2026 & 2027, 2.5% for 2028 - 2030, and 2.14% (or the 20-year historical average) thereafter, as well as use of debt fund balance on hand and estimated bond interest rates.



**6. What are the debt and Sinking Fund mills levied by other school districts in the area?**



Source: Shiawassee County 2024 Apportionment Report and Individual School Districts  
7.36 mill average

**7. When would the millage for this proposal first be levied, if approved?**

The millage for this proposal, if approved, would first be levied on the December 2026 property tax bill. Again, the district’s debt millage is projected to remain at 4.7 mills, with no projected increase resulting from the proposed bonds.

**8. Would the approval of the bond proposal have any impact on our current operational budget?**

While funding from this bond proposal is independent of the district’s general fund operating budget, the bond would likely have a positive impact on the district’s general fund by allowing the district to reallocate operating funds that are currently being spent on aging facilities and mechanical systems. The operational savings generated from new and cost-efficient facilities could be redirected to student programs and resources.

**9. What oversights would hold the district accountable?**

If approved by voters, the district’s Architect/Engineer would design the proposed projects and prepare construction documents and specifications for the projects. Once the projects are designed, the district’s Construction Manager will assemble bid packages and publicly advertise to solicit competitive bids for all work. This is required in the Revised School Code. This process ensures that the district selects the lowest responsible bidder. All qualified contractors will have an opportunity to attend a pre-bid meeting to obtain additional information and project clarification. All qualified contractors will have the opportunity to participate in the competitive bid process. All bond projects, including financial records and expenditures of bond funds, will be audited by a third-party auditor annually.



**10. At what point would the State of Michigan, as well as the local fire and police departments, provide input into the bond projects?**

Each project will be required to be submitted to both the State's Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC) and the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) for both plan review and permitting. These agencies will review the projects to ensure they comply with applicable codes, before any building permits are issued. Building plans and specifications must be signed and sealed by a Licensed Architect/Professional Engineer before submission. As of March 21, 2019, Michigan law requires school districts to consult on the plans for the construction or major renovation regarding school safety issues with the law enforcement agency that is the first responder for that school building. This consultation would happen if the bond proposal is approved by voters, before construction documents are finalized prior to project commencement.

**11. Are owners of property in the school district eligible to vote if they do not reside in the school district?**

Owners of property are only eligible to vote if they reside in the school district boundaries. To be eligible to register to vote, you must be:

- A Michigan resident (at the time you register) and a resident of your city or township for at least 30 days (when you vote)
- A United States citizen
- At least 18 years of age (when you vote)
- Not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison

**12. If I rent a home, can I vote?**

Yes. If you rent a home, you can still vote as long as you are a registered voter in the city or township in which you live, and you live within the district boundaries.

**13. How is an absentee voter ballot obtained?**

Registered voters must complete and submit the application to receive their absentee voter ballot. To vote by mail, fill out the application and sign it, and then return it to your local clerk. If you registered to vote after absentee voter ballot applications were mailed, applications may be obtained online at [Michigan.gov/vote](https://Michigan.gov/vote). Absentee voter ballots will be available from September 25, 2025 to November 4, 2025.

**14. What are the key dates leading up to Tuesday, November 4, 2025, election day?**

Registering to vote:

- The last day for voters to register by mail/online is October 20, 2025.
- Voters may register in-person through November 4, 2025 (election day) with the required documentation.

Absentee Voting:

- Absentee voter ballots will be available from September 25, 2025 to November 4, 2025.
- Contact your local clerk with questions.



**15. What is the ballot language?**

**OWOSSO PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOND PROPOSAL**

Shall Owosso Public Schools, Shiawassee County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Thirty-Five Million Dollars (\$35,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

erecting an addition to, and partially remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping and re-equipping the Bentley Bright Beginnings building; partially remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping and re-equipping Emerson Elementary School, including a partial roof replacement, boiler replacement, and acquiring classroom furniture; partially remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping and re-equipping Bryant Elementary School, including creating a secure entrance, a partial roof replacement, boiler replacement, remodeling restrooms, and acquiring classroom furniture; partially remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping and re-equipping Central Elementary School, including creating a secure entrance, a full roof replacement (except for that portion of the roof on the multi-purpose room addition), remodeling restrooms, replacing windows, and acquiring classroom furniture; partial roof replacement, renovation of pool-related mechanical systems and infrastructure, and building remodeling related to the roof and pool projects, at the Owosso High School/Owosso Middle School campus; partially remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping and re-equipping Washington-Lincoln School, including creating a secure entrance, remodeling restrooms, replacing water lines, and acquiring classroom furniture; erecting, furnishing, and equipping a transportation/maintenance facility and a bus canopy structure; demolishing the Cedar Street Warehouse building and buildings on the Jerome Street Bus Facility site; and preparing, developing, and improving sites at the Bentley Bright Beginnings, Bryant, Central, Emerson, Owosso High School/Owosso Middle School, and Washington-Lincoln campuses, the transportation/maintenance facility site, and the Jerome Street Bus Facility site, including paving and improving parking lots?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2026, under current law, is 2.30 mills (\$2.30 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), for a -0- mills net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty-five (25) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 2.18 mills (\$2.18 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$37,235,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is \$0. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

- Yes
- No



**16. In the ballot language, it states that the estimated millage that will be levied in 2026 to pay the proposed bonds in the first year is 2.3 mills, what does this mean?**

The proposed bonds are estimated to require 2.3 mill levy with the 2026 levy for a projected zero mill net increase over the previous year's levy. However, the total debt levy is projected to remain at the 4.7 mills that will be levied in 2025, for a projected zero mill increase. 2.3 mills of the 4.7 mills levied would be related to the new bonds.

**17. In the ballot language, it states that the maximum number of years any series of bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of refunding, is not more than twenty-five (25) years, what does this mean?**

The school district plans to issue three series (portions) of bonds with all bond principal and interest for each portion paid off within twenty-five (25) years.

**18. Is a millage like this standard operating procedure for school districts?**

Yes, a millage like this is standard operating procedure for school districts in Michigan and across the country. School districts commonly rely on voter-approved millages—such as sinking funds, operating millages, and bond proposals—to fund building and infrastructure projects that are not fully covered by state funding. These funds often support building maintenance, safety improvements, technology upgrades, transportation, and other essential infrastructure. In short, millages are a regular and necessary part of how public schools maintain their facilities and services for students and staff.

**19. How were the funds from the 2017 bond spent?**

**Created a combined Middle School/High School Campus**

- a. Remodeled 59 HS classrooms, added 20 new classrooms
- b. Constructed a new middle school gym
- c. Constructed a new performing arts center featuring an auditorium with 1,000 seats, 2 band classrooms, 2 choir classrooms, and 2 art classrooms
- d. Remodeled for Career and Technical Education (formerly known as Vocational Education)
- e. Remodeled the Owosso High School/Owosso Middle School Campus media center (library)
- f. Remodeled to create a separate middle school entrance/office
- g. Expanded parking/improved traffic circulation

**District-wide security updates**

**District-wide technology improvements (5 year bond)**

**Constructed multi-purpose room additions at Emerson, Central, and Bryant Elementaries**

**Furnishings for all of the new spaces**

**20. Where can I get more information about this project?**

<https://www.owosso.k12.mi.us/flatrate>



**21. What is each district property used for?**

- Bentley Bright Beginnings is Owosso Public Schools' Early Childhood Center, offering childcare and several preschool classes for nearly 200 students. There is a waiting list for Bentley's childcare and preschool programs.
- Emerson, Central, and Bryant Schools provide elementary education, grades K-5, to approximately 1,280 students.
- Owosso Middle School, grades 6-8, has approximately 630 students at the Owosso Secondary Campus on North Street.
- Owosso High School, grades 9-12, has approximately 785 students at the Owosso Secondary Campus on North Street.
- The Washington Campus is home to Lincoln Alternative High School, which serves approximately 135 students, and the district Administration Office.
- The bus garage on Jerome Street is the current transportation center.
- The warehouse on Cedar Street is where district maintenance equipment is stored and our maintenance team members' headquarters.
- The Cass Street warehouse is where the bus maintenance takes place and vital district records are stored.
- The Green Meadows (Tahyio Road) property is a vacant piece of land.
- Kiwanis Acres (on Waugh Road) was gifted to the district and by law, cannot be sold.
- The former Owosso Middle School on North Water Street is under contract with Venture Inc.

**22. Will energy efficient lighting be considered in these projects?**

Yes, energy efficiency will be considered in all electrical projects.

**23. What is the cost of a new boiler to heat a school?**

This amount varies based on the size of the school. In this current proposal, Emerson and Bryant would each have a new boiler installed. The projected cost for Emerson's boiler is approximately \$861,000 and Bryant's is \$827,000.

**24. Does this proposal include installing air conditioning in Owosso's schools?**

No, it does not.

**25. Will the district sell the bus garage, Cass St. warehouse, and Cedar Street warehouse?**

- The district plans to demolish the bus garage structure on Jerome Street and repave this area that will be used for Willman Field parking.
- Cass Street warehouse would be sold.
- The Cedar Street warehouse would be demolished.

**Net ZERO mill increase projected  
from the current tax levy**



OWOSSO PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

**26. Has the old middle school been sold?**

Owosso Public Schools Board of Education entered into an agreement with Venture, Inc. in 2022 to purchase the former Owosso Middle School on North Water Street for \$200,000. Since that time, Venture, Inc., has pursued a tedious grant funding process to repurpose the former school building into affordable housing. Venture, Inc. has also been paying \$10,000 per quarter to offset utility costs since July 2022 and will continue to pay this stipend through December 31, 2025.

**27. Questions?**

If you have further questions, please contact Steve Brooks, Superintendent, 989-723-8131 or [brooks@owosso.k12.mi.us](mailto:brooks@owosso.k12.mi.us)



## Summary of 2025 Bond Proposal Projects

| <b>Bentley Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center</b>   | <b>Emerson Elementary School</b>  | <b>Bryant Elementary School</b>   | <b>Central Elementary School</b>   | <b>Owosso 6th-12th Grade Campus &amp; Athletics</b>  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Site work for an addition that houses two new classrooms with restrooms</p> <p>Mill and overlay the existing parking lot</p> <p>Expand the parking lot</p> <p>Classroom furniture and equipment</p>                  | <p>Replace boiler</p> <p>Replace EIFS with composite panel on north side of building</p> <p>Replace roof – center section</p> <p>Pave parking lot</p> <p>Replace sidewalks near bus stop on Dewey Street</p> <p>Classroom furniture and equipment</p> | <p>Build a secure entrance</p> <p>Replace boiler</p> <p>Remodel restrooms to meet ADA compliance – new fixtures and finishes</p> <p>Replace the roof over the gym and the wood exterior fascia</p> <p>Replace ceilings throughout the school</p> <p>Install exterior fencing</p> <p>Classroom furniture and equipment</p> | <p>Build a secure entrance</p> <p>Remodel restrooms to meet ADA compliance – new fixtures and finishes</p> <p>Replace the entire roof and the wood exterior fascia (Note: The 2019 addition will NOT receive a new roof.)</p> <p>Replace windows</p> <p>Replace sidewalks on Lee Street (Note: Some work will be completed in 2027 and some in 2028.)</p> <p>Classroom furniture and equipment</p> | <p>Replace sawtooth roofing over the cafeteria and media center</p> <p>Replace pool infrastructure and mechanical systems (Note: Some work will be completed in 2028 and some in 2029.)</p> <p>Remove skylights and infill roof and ceiling</p> <p>Resurface the “freshman” parking lot on the West side of the campus</p> |
| <b>Washington Campus / Lincoln Alternative High School</b>  | <b>Jerome Street Transportation Facility</b>  | <b>Cedar Street Warehouse</b>   | <b>New Transportation / Maintenance Center</b>   |  |
| <p>Add doors to create a secure entrance</p> <p>Remodel restrooms to meet ADA compliance – new fixtures and finishes</p> <p>Replace water lines</p> <p>Replace fuse panels</p> <p>Classroom furniture and equipment</p> | <p>Demolish buildings</p> <p>Create new parking lot for district use</p>  | <p>Demolish existing building which houses the district maintenance equipment and serves as the maintenance team members' headquarters.</p>   | <p>New construction of a Transportation / Maintenance Center on the north side of the 6th-12th Grade Campus (property currently owned by the District) inclusive of:</p> <p>Bus canopy for 12 buses</p> <p>Sitework</p> <p>Loose furnishings and equipment</p> <p>Technology</p>   |  |